

- 3 -

Simms  
Appl. No. 09/058,350

phthalic acids, 2,4-pentanediones, histidines, histidinol dihydrochlorides, 8-hydroxyquinoline citrates, and *o*-hydroxyquinones.

~~28~~ 30. An RNA extraction reagent according to claim ~~27~~<sup>25</sup>, wherein the nonionic detergent is octylphenoxy poly(oxyethylene)ethanol at a concentration of about 0.5% (vol/vol).

~~29~~ 31. An RNA extraction reagent according to claim ~~27~~<sup>25</sup>, wherein the phenol solubilizer is ethylene glycol.

~~30~~ 32. An RNA extraction reagent according to claim ~~30~~<sup>28</sup>, wherein the phenol solubilizer is selected from the group consisting of a monoalcohol, a diol and a polyol.

~~31~~ 33. An RNA extraction reagent according to claim ~~30~~<sup>28</sup>, wherein the phenol solubilizer is ethylene glycol.

~~32~~ 34. An RNA extraction reagent according to claim ~~21~~<sup>21</sup> or ~~22~~<sup>21</sup>, said reagent containing a salt of citric acid at a concentration of 0.05 - 0.2% (wgt/vol).--.

### Remarks

Entry of the above amendments and reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2-11 and 13-34 are pending in the application. New claims 23-34 are sought to be added. Support for the new claims may be found, *inter alia*, in the specification at page 5, lines 21-28, page 7, lines 11-14, and page 7, line 21, to page 8, line 3, and in original claims 4-6, 9 and 11. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. The new claims are directed

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- 4 -

Simms  
Appl. No. 09/058,350

to specific chelators, stabilizers and solubilizers as well as concentrations. All claims are dependent upon previously examined independent claims.

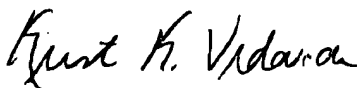
Based on the above amendment and the amendment and remarks filed November 8, 2000, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Supplemental Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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